

# Neighborhood News

## March Meeting Highlights

Freda Rafes, Outreach Educator for the Crime Victims Council, presented an informative program, "Strategies to Increase Your Home Security, Personal Safety, and Fraud Protection." The Council is a private, non-profit, free service for victims of crimes that run the gamut from purse snatching all the way to gunshot wounds. Funding comes not from taxes, but from fines collected from convicted criminals. A 24-hour hotline (610 437-6611) is available to lend support for victims of crimes including survivors of homicide victims. Volunteers man the hotline and personally support and advocate for victims in the emergency rooms of hospitals and in police departments. In cases of rape, council personnel act as S.A.F.E. (Sexual Assault Forensic Expert) nurses to ensure that evidence in assault cases is collected properly and the crime victims can hope for a supportive outcome. When a person is the victim of a crime, council people help with the process of filing for compensation for damages. Many council personnel hold bachelors and masters degrees in areas such as social work. They have the background to advocate and provide support, referring victims to other agencies for resources which can help them heal. Ms. Rafes also talked about home security. Trimming shrubbery, keeping all entrances and garages well lit, and using deadbolts on all external doors are just a few of the tips shared. If you plan to be away for an extended time, ask neighbors to park their cars in your driveway. Apartment dwellers are advised to request that parking lots, entrances, stairways and laundry rooms are well-lit and locked if possible. Take photos of valuables in your home and store pictures in a fireproof box. Protecting yourself from fraud and scams involves being aware of high pressure sales tactics, contractors who contact you unsolicited and anyone who asks for credit card or social security numbers over the phone or on the internet. Check your credit reports annually at Equifax (1-800-525-6285), Experian (1-888-397-3742), or TransUnion (1-800-980-7289). Look for detailed brochures from Crime Victims council of the Lehigh Valley at our April meeting.



## CLEAN UP – FIX UP – PAINT UP PROTECT YOUR BIGGEST INVESTMENT

Many times it is the little things that make the biggest difference. This Spring, the City of Allentown, through the Bureau of Building Standards and Safety, is embarking upon its first "Clean Up, Fix Up, Paint Up" campaign. We are hoping to encourage all residents and property owners to take the first step toward improving Allentown by improving their own property.

- House numbers must be visible from the street and alley
- Keep your yard and porch free of junk, trash and debris
- Fences, garages and sheds must be painted and in good condition
- Steps, decks and landings must be in good condition with handrails and railings
- All gutters and downspouts must be clean and operational
- Swimming pools more than 24" deep need permits
- Only seasonal furniture permitted on exterior of property
- If you're interested in receiving financing to repair your home, please call the City of Allentown at (610) 437-7696.
- If you have any questions on what repairs require a permit, please call (610) 437-7591 or check our website at: [www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov)

See valuable coupons on page 2

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**Our next meeting:**  
**Wednesday, April 14**  
**7:00 P.M**

**Christ E.C. Church**  
**2135 Tilghman St.**

Muhlenberg Area Community Watch meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Christ E. C. Church 2135 Tilghman St., Lower Level

*We invite residents of any neighborhood in the city to join us!*

**Future Meetings:**  
**Wednesday, May 12**  
**Wednesday, June 9**



Is there a house for sale in your neighborhood? Would you like the owner/realtor to know about the Student Overlay Guidelines? Call/email Al and Ev Habecker at 610-432-8032/  
[aehabecker@msn.com](mailto:aehabecker@msn.com)

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# ROBINSON PLUMBING

## CHRIST EVANGELICAL

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

22nd & Tilghman Sts

Phone: 610-434-1652

<http://www.christecchurch.com>

Sunday School ~ 9:15 a.m.

Worship ~ 10:30 a.m.

**WANT TO PLACE AN AD?**

**CALL 610 821-7716**

### MAC Contact Information:

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Chris Gabellini 610- 439-3610,  
[gabellinidesign@choiceonemail.com](mailto:gabellinidesign@choiceonemail.com)

**Circulation of newsletters:** Al Habecker, Lud Schlecht,  
and Gretchen Krasley

**Newsletter Publication:** Gretchen Krasley  
610 821-7716, [Gretchenkrasley@aol.com](mailto:Gretchenkrasley@aol.com)

**Patrol of Neighborhood:** Tom Mulligan 610 433-1512

**Conducting meetings:** Rotating responsibility

**Presidents' Council meetings:** Tom Burke 610 432-4079

**Real Estate Sales Letters:** Al and Ev Habecker 610-432-  
8032, [aehabecker@msn.com](mailto:aehabecker@msn.com)

## VALID STORE COUPONS

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Hardware & Garden Center, Inc.

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**Mon-Fri 8am-6pm; Sat 8am-5pm; Sun 10am-3pm**



**5% off with a \$20 purchase or more,**

Excludes all sale items. Not valid with any  
other special offers. Must present coupon  
at time of purchase. Expires 12/31/10.

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